

Minutes of the Meeting of March 31, 2017

of the

MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD

I. Regular Matters of Business

In attendance at this regular meeting of the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement Board ("the Board") were Chairman Jeff Wulfson, Vice Chair Nicola Favorito, Jacqueline A. Gorrie, Richard L. Liston, Joannah M. Quinn, Anne Wass, Executive Director Erika Glaster, Assistant Executive Director Sean Neilon, Assistant Executive Director Jon Osimo, General Counsel James Salvie, Disability Case Manager Salvatore Coco and Executive Assistant Helen Petruzzello. Mr. Naughton was absent due to personal reasons.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:01 a.m.

The minutes of the previous Board meeting, held on February 24, 2017, were reviewed and approved as submitted on a motion made by Ms. Gorrie and seconded by Ms. Quinn. The motion carried 4-0-2 with Ms. Wass and Mr. Liston abstaining due to their absence from the February board meeting.

VOTED: The Open and Executive minutes of the Board meeting held on February 24, 2017, are hereby approved as submitted.

II. Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Liston, and seconded by Ms. Wass, to enter into executive session in order to review applications for disability retirement. On roll call, the vote was as follows:

VOTED: Nicola Favorito	Yes
Jacqueline A. Gorrie	Yes
Richard L. Liston	Yes
Anne Wass	Yes
Joannah M. Quinn	Yes

At approximately 9:02 a.m. the Board went into Executive Session. The Chairman stated that the Board would return to Open Session.

At approximately 11:48 a.m. the Board reconvened in Open Session.

III. Open Session

A. REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF OVERPAYMENT

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 32, § 20(5)(c)(3), the Board reviewed and discussed the materials concerning the overpayment of retirement benefits to Ellen Neelands of \$1,083.05. The Board found that the error persisted for more than one year, was not the result of erroneous information provided by the member, and the member did not have reason to believe that the benefit amount was in error. On a motion made by Mr. Liston and seconded by Ms. Wass, the Board voted unanimously to approve the waiver.

B. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Ms. Glaster notified the board of a recently identified disclosure of retiree dates of birth to the four Massachusetts retiree associations that have a perpetual public records request for the contact information of all new and deceased MTRS retirees. After research, Board staff determined that the disclosure was not in violation of Chapter 93H, but contacted the four associations to provide notification and ascertain how the data was used. All four associations provided written declarations that they had neither used the data nor disclosed it to any other parties. Ms. Glaster assured the board that this field will be stricken from any future reports.
2. Ms. Glaster distributed a sample of the PRIM election ballot that was being mailed out to members that day. Additionally, she distributed the latest editions of the Advisor newsletter for active and retired members, which are distributed via electronically to members for whom we have email addresses, and in hard copy to those retired members for whom we do not.
3. Ms. Glaster noted that included in the board materials was a copy of H. 3448, the supplemental budget that addresses the Exclusive Benefit Rule issues and reported that it was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor on

March 28th. Ms. Glaster stated her belief that this resolves the three issues affecting the MTRS prospectively and indicated the next step is to approach the IRS for validation of the prospective solutions and discussion of actions necessary for retrospective solutions, if any. She noted the good cooperation between ANF's tax counsel, taking the lead, with support from Ice Miller on that next step and commended Mr. Salvie and Mr. Neilon for their efforts on the resolution. Additionally, Ms. Glaster reported that she and Mr. Neilon met with the newly appointed House Chairman of the Public Service Committee, Representative Jerald Parisella. They provided an overview of the MTRS, and discussed plan design issues as a follow-up to a constituent call to Mr. Parisella's office regarding the New York Times article about the Urban Institute's report on state teachers' pension plans

4. Ms. Glaster reported that she will be forwarding a form containing the board members' contact information for the new online system, *PROSPER*, being rolled out in April by the Public Employees Retirement Administration Commission ("PERAC"). She further explained that she and Ms. Petruzzello attended a training session on the compliance segment of the program and will be providing a training session in the upcoming months for the board members following the rollout.
5. Ms. Glaster provided an update on the status of the Benefit Verification process, reporting that 81% of the membership had returned the forms so far and that a second mailing will be forwarded next month to the non-responders. Upon the Board's questioning, Ms. Glaster explained the process for stopping benefit payments for non-responders after three mailings but maintaining insurance payments until the end of the calendar year, at which point all payments cease until the member responds.
6. Addressing the board's question concerning the verification of power of attorneys for retired members, Ms. Glaster announced a new contract was signed with a private death match service, PBI, which is currently being used by local and national peers. She noted the MTRS put out a RFR for this service after the Social Security Death match file stopped including death reports from the states. She expects that this report will help to address the power of attorney issue and will have more information at a future meeting.
7. Ms. Glaster informed the board that last month approximately fifty staff members participated in an elder awareness training session with the Director of the Cambridge Council on Aging, which addressed perceptions about age, gave effective communication tips on working with elder

members, provided signs of elder abuse and listed community resources for elders, including housing, transportation, meals, taxes and legal help and heating assistance.

On a motion made by Mr. Liston and seconded by Ms. Quinn, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika M. Glaster, Executive Director

Date

Documents used in MTRS Board meeting of March 31, 2017

- Agenda for March 31, 2017 MTRS Board meeting
- Cover letter from Executive Director
- Open minutes and executive minutes of February 24, 2017 MTRS Board meeting
- Memorandum and supporting documents pertaining to Request for Waiver of Overpayment